



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON MAN SENTENCED TO 74 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING MARIJUANA

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on February 18, 2004, Francisco Perez II, (D.O.B. 7/5/72) of Tucson, Arizona, was sentenced to 74 months in prison by United States District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson, in Tucson, Arizona. On August 20, 2001, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), acting on a tip, established surveillance of defendant's residence at 2156 N. 1st Avenue in Tucson. Over the next few hours, agents observed several individuals enter and leave the house. At about 7:00 p.m. in the evening, agents stopped two undocumented aliens who left the defendant's residence with a black suitcase; 40 lbs of marijuana was found in the suitcase. Agents obtained a search warrant and seized an additional 80 lbs of marijuana in the defendant's residence and a nearby residence. Once the defendant discovered he was under surveillance, he moved some of his marijuana to a neighbor's house. DEA agents also found \$17,000.00 in cash, several loaded weapons, a bullet proof vest, handcuffs, a ski mask, and a stun gun at the defendant's residence. The defendant had set up an elaborate video surveillance system around his residence to protect his drug operation.

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The defendant was indicted by a grand jury on August 29, 2001 for conspiring to distribute marijuana and possessing marijuana with intent to distribute. The defendant proceeded to trial and was convicted on both counts by a federal jury on May 8, 2003.

The investigation was handled by the DEA with the assistance of the Pima County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution was handled by Sean C. Chapman, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-1238-TUC-CKJ

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